

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

As a result of the present amendment, claims 1-18 are presented in the case for continued prosecution.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8-10 have been amended in response to the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. No new matter has been added and it is urged that the claims are now in proper form in all respects. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection is therefore proper and earnestly solicited.

This response is being filed within the shortened period for response. No further fee is believed to be due. If, on the other hand, it is determined that any further fees are due or any overpayment has been made, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit such sum to deposit account 02-2275. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated therewith is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

In view of the actions taken and arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that each of the matters raised by the Examiner has been addressed by the present amendment and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By: 

Michael N. Mercanti
Registration No. 33,966

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP
475 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016
Phone: 212-661-8000
Fax: 212-661-8002